

Needs, openness balanced

By TERESA SWANK
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In an effort to obtain an "academic" opinion on the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Director Stanfield Turner appeared before Wabash College students Friday evening during a lecture on the Crawfordsville campus.

Turner spoke at DePauw University — his first college appearance since being named in March by President Jimmy Carter to head the CIA — earlier Friday, telling the DePauw audience that the new oversight of the intelligence community is creating an American information-gathering apparatus that balances the nation's security needs with its traditional openness.

During a press conference Friday prior to his Wabash debut, Turner said he believed that the CIA was in "fine shape when he was appointed director and the situation is still the same." He also said that he felt he

was fortunate because he must divulge information to Congress only through the new Senate and House oversight committees.

Commenting that while the new oversight arrangements are aimed at making his agency more publicly accountable, he would remiss to let its covert abilities "atrophy."

In talking about former CIA director Robert Helms, Turner said he was "personally pleased" with the disposition of charges that Helms gave false testimony to a Senate committee. After plea bargaining with the Justice Department, Helms was allowed to plead guilty and received a fine and suspended sentence.

"None of us in the government are above the law or entitled to lie. But I am pleased for our country's sake we did not have to go through a public trial and the possible release of important information to conduct that trial," Stanfield said.

On Aug. 4, 1977, President Carter announced reorganization of the Intelligence Community, creating a high-level committee chaired by Turner to set priorities for collecting and producing intelligence and giving Turner full control of budget and operational taking of intelligence collection.

When asked if he thought one person could get too much "monetary" control over the agency, Turner said, "I don't feel as though I am in total control over the budget. I am in charge, not control. I can't make out a check, sign my name and let it go at that. I still have to discuss these measures with the proper officials, so I don't feel I am controlling the entire CIA budget."

Stanfield said that his main concern as director of CIA was to be aware of what people wanted from the agency and to stay aware of those wants.